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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



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116

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS

## CONTINUE TO RISE

Cattle numbers continued their steady increase throughout the world in 1957, rising to a record high of about 972 million head. This is 1 percent (11 million head) above the previous year and 7 percent (66 million head) above the 1951-55 average  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The largest increase was in the Soviet Union. It amounted to 9 percent (5.3 million head) over 1956. Cattle numbers also increased in 1957 in Asia (1 percent or 2.7 million head). Numbers in both South America and Africa increased about 1 percent and 1 million head. They declined slightly in Oceania and North America. There was no significant change in Eastern European cattle numbers.

## NUMBER OF CATTLE in relation to NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MAJOR WORLD AREAS

Each Symbol=200 Cattle Per 1,000 Persons

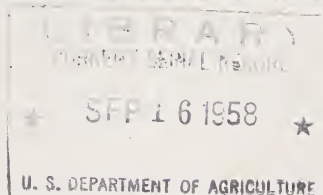
|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Oceania        |  |
| South America  |  |
| North America  |  |
| Africa         |  |
| U. S. S. R.    |  |
| Eastern Europe |  |
| Western Europe |  |
| Asia           |  |

| Cattle Per 1,000 Persons |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| OCEANIA .....            | 1,629 |
| SOUTH AMERICA .....      | 1,167 |
| NORTH AMERICA .....      | 553   |
| AFRICA .....             | 535   |
| U. S. S. R. ....         | 275   |
| EASTERN EUROPE .....     | 271   |
| WESTERN EUROPE .....     | 251   |
| ASIA .....               | 249   |
| WORLD AVERAGE .....      | 349   |

AVERAGE 1951-55

USDA

FAS-NEG. 1607



FLM 2-58  
May 5, 1958

Cattle numbers increased 7 percent (20 million head) in Asia, compared with the 1951-55 average. Most of this increase was in China and South-east Asia. African numbers increased 11 percent (11 million head), mostly in Central and North Africa. The gain in South America was 9 percent (13 million head); in North America, 6 percent (75 million); in Western Europe, 4 percent (3 million); in Eastern Europe, 3 percent (1 million); and in Oceania, 7 percent (1 million). The U.S.S.R. gained 17 percent (9.7 million).

Cattle production in tropical and semi-tropical areas has expanded considerably. With the gradual improvement in management and feeding practices due to aid and investment programs, many areas of potentially large production are being developed.

Disease, poor feeding, and the lack of modern marketing institutions are the prime barriers to the development of a profitable cattle industry in many of these less developed areas. During the past several years, there have been increases in cattle numbers in Central America, the Caribbean area, Central Africa and parts of North Africa. The increase in these areas is expected to continue. Africa, which had fewer cattle than Europe (excluding the U.S.S.R.) during the period 1951-55, now has over 4 million more cattle than Europe.

For example, numbers are increasing sharply in French Equatorial Africa. Since 1956, 2 million cattle in the Province of Tchad have been vaccinated for rinderpest, and a breed improvement station and a demonstration ranch have been established near Ft. Lamy. Many wells have been dug in the dry northern regions so that cattle may now remain there all year instead of only during the rainy season. Establishment of a slaughter plant at Ft. Lamy, and plans for one at Ft. Archambault have further encouraged the commercialization of livestock.

### Western Europe

Cattle numbers in Western Europe continued their steady rise. Throughout Western Europe, government policies favor cattle development. As a result, cattle numbers there have risen about 29 percent from the postwar low of about 69,100,000 head to the present record 76,357,000 head.

The United Kingdom, by far the world's most important beef importing country, increased its cattle from the prewar average of 8,798,000 head to 10,831,000 at the end of 1957. Due to this 23 percent rise, the United Kingdom has sharply reduced the proportion of imported beef in its total beef consumption. This trend toward higher numbers and larger production in the United Kingdom is expected to continue.

France, with the most cattle of any country in Europe, increased its numbers by about one percent in 1957. Although numbers are expected to continue to increase, domestic beef production probably will not supply French demand for several years. France was a net importer of cattle and beef during 1957, even though imports were strictly controlled. It had been a net exporter in recent years.

Cattle numbers in West Germany continued to rise in 1957, but are expected to remain substantially level in 1958. Large 1957 beef production caused Germany to curtail imports sharply in the second half of the year. The curtailment continued in early 1958. Numbers in Denmark, a large exporter of cattle and beef again increased in 1957, and further increases are expected for 1958.

### Exporting Areas

The decrease in cattle numbers in several of the leading beef exporting countries is significant in the present world cattle situation. Numbers in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Uruguay are now below their recent peaks. However, numbers in Mexico and Denmark continued to rise. Numbers in these 6 countries are now probably 4 million below their 1956 total of 95 million head, but are still about 1.5 million greater than the 1951-55 average.

CATTLE: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages  
1936-40, 1946-50, 1951-55, and annual 1957 and 1958

| Continent<br>or area | Average               |                       |          |                    |                    | Increase<br>or decrease |         |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|
|                      | 1936-40               | 1946-50               | 1951-55  | 1957 <sup>1/</sup> | 1958 <sup>1/</sup> | 1958                    | 1958    |
|                      |                       |                       |          |                    |                    | 1951-55                 | 1957    |
|                      | Thousand              | Thousand              | Thousand | Thousand           | Thousand           | Percent                 | Percent |
| North America        | 96,700                | 112,700               | 127,450  | 135,116            | 134,998            | +6                      | 0       |
| South America        | 105,500               | 123,800               | 138,420  | 150,333            | 151,367            | +9                      | +1      |
| Europe               | 102,500               | 95,900                | 102,830  | 105,903            | 106,847            | +4                      | +1      |
| U.S.S.R.             | 59,800                | 50,800                | 57,020   | 61,400             | 66,700             | +17                     | -9      |
| Africa               | 64,600                | 86,800                | 100,410  | 109,731            | 110,979            | +11                     | +1      |
| Asia                 | <sup>2/</sup> 308,200 | <sup>2/</sup> 294,800 | 358,500  | 376,159            | 378,848            | +6                      | +1      |
| Oceania              | 18,100                | 19,100                | 21,180   | 22,886             | 22,069             | +4                      | -3      |
| Total                | 755,400               | 783,900               | 905,810  | 961,528            | 971,808            | +7                      | +1      |

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2/</sup> See footnote <sup>1/</sup> page 7.

A severe drought in Australia during 1957 forced ranchers to move their herds off stricken ranges to slaughter. This unusually heavy slaughter reversed the long standing upward trend in Australian cattle numbers and caused a drop of 4 percent. Numbers are expected to remain below their peak throughout 1958.

The reduction in New Zealand cattle numbers resulted in a sharp drop in beef production during the last quarter of 1957 and in early 1958. Numbers in New Zealand are expected to recover by 1959. Because of relatively good beef prices, New Zealand's farmers are being encouraged to switch from dairy to beef production.

Argentine cattle numbers dropped 6 percent during 1957, from a record 46.9 million in June 1956 to 44.2 million in June 1957. About 2.2 million head, or 81 percent of the 2.7 million decrease, was in cows and heifers. This reduction in the breeding herd indicates that the downward trend will continue during 1958. Unusually heavy slaughter since the June 1957 enumeration also indicates a further drop in numbers. Much of this decrease was in the Province of Buenos Aires which supplies a large proportion of the high grade cattle used for the production of export beef. It is doubtful if Argentina can continue the heavy slaughter of 1957 without seriously depleting its breeding herd.

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58; human population and number of cattle per 1,000 inhabitants, average 1951-55

| Countries                                        | Month of estimate | Cattle numbers  |           |           |           | Human population average 1951-55 3/ | Number cattle per 1,000 people average 1951-55 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                                  |                   | Average 1951-55 | 1956      | 1957 2/   | 1958 2/   |                                     |                                                |
|                                                  |                   | 1/              |           |           |           |                                     |                                                |
|                                                  |                   | Thousands       | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands                           | Number                                         |
| <b>NORTH AMERICA:</b>                            |                   |                 |           |           |           |                                     |                                                |
| Canada (Excluding Newfoundland) ..               | Dec. 1 1/         | 8,658           | 9,666     | 10,379    | 10,293    | 14,822                              | 570                                            |
| Mexico .....                                     | Spring            | 15,320          | 16,000    | 16,700    | 16,900    | 28,083                              | 546                                            |
| United States .....                              | Jan. 1            | 91,330          | 96,804    | 94,502    | 93,967    | 159,742                             | 572                                            |
| Total Canada, Mexico, U.S. and possessions ..... |                   | 115,880         | 123,057   | 122,168   | 121,747   | 205,824                             | 563                                            |
| Costa Rica .....                                 | Mar.              | 4/ 804          | 844       | 873       | ---       | 885                                 | 908                                            |
| El Salvador .....                                | Oct. 1/           | 5/ 859          | 985       | ---       | ---       | 2,055                               | 418                                            |
| Guatemala .....                                  |                   | 1,133           | 1,033     | ---       | ---       | 3,069                               | 369                                            |
| Honduras .....                                   |                   | 5/ 1,146        | 1,121     | ---       | ---       | 1,563                               | 733                                            |
| Nicaragua .....                                  |                   | 1,176           | 1,216     | 1,328     | ---       | 1,166                               | 1,009                                          |
| Panama .....                                     | June              | 5/ 578          | 594       | 572       | ---       | 864                                 | 669                                            |
| Total Central America .....                      |                   | 5,710           | 5,809     | 5,928     | 6,027     | 9,677                               | 590                                            |
| Cuba .....                                       | Dec. 31 1/        | 4,362           | 4,500     | 5,500     | 5,700     | 5,830                               | 748                                            |
| Dominican Republic .....                         |                   | 892             | ---       | ---       | ---       | 2,359                               | 378                                            |
| Total Caribbean .....                            |                   | 5,860           | 5,989     | 7,020     | 7,224     | 15,004                              | 390                                            |
| Total North America .....                        |                   | 127,450         | 134,855   | 135,116   | 134,998   | 230,500                             | 553                                            |
| <b>SOUTH AMERICA:</b>                            |                   |                 |           |           |           |                                     |                                                |
| Argentina .....                                  | June 20           | 5/ 42,688       | 46,940    | 44,203    | ---       | 18,389                              | 2,321                                          |
| Bolivia .....                                    | June              | 4/ 2,260        | ---       | ---       | ---       | 3,125                               | 723                                            |
| Brazil .....                                     | Dec. 31 1/        | 56,215          | 63,608    | 65,818    | 68,120    | 55,803                              | 1,020                                          |
| Chile .....                                      | June 1            | 2,375           | 2,450     | ---       | ---       | 6,455                               | 368                                            |
| Colombia .....                                   | Jan.              | 5/ 12,301       | 12,500    | 13,390    | ---       | 12,117                              | 1,015                                          |
| Ecuador .....                                    |                   | 5/ 1,238        | ---       | ---       | ---       | 3,489                               | 355                                            |
| Paraguay .....                                   |                   | 4,099           | 4,095     | ---       | ---       | 1,497                               | 2,738                                          |
| Peru .....                                       |                   | 3,304           | ---       | ---       | ---       | 9,040                               | 365                                            |
| Uruguay .....                                    | May               | 7,797           | 7,305     | ---       | ---       | 2,534                               | 3,077                                          |
| Venezuela .....                                  | Dec.              | 5,927           | 6,200     | 6,400     | ---       | 5,446                               | 1,088                                          |
| Total South America .....                        |                   | 138,420         | 149,987   | 150,333   | 151,367   | 118,600                             | 1,167                                          |
| <b>EUROPE:</b>                                   |                   |                 |           |           |           |                                     |                                                |
| Austria .....                                    | Dec. 3 1/         | 2,303           | 2,346     | 2,325     | 2,296     | 6,958                               | 331                                            |
| Belgium .....                                    | Jan. 1            | 2,153           | 2,242     | 2,300     | 2,478     | 8,775                               | 245                                            |
| Denmark .....                                    | Dec. 31 1/        | 2,989           | 3,082     | 3,113     | 3,151     | 4,370                               | 684                                            |
| Finland .....                                    | June 15           | 1,852           | 1,827     | ---       | ---       | 4,142                               | 447                                            |
| France .....                                     | Oct. 1 1/         | 16,507          | 17,572    | 17,792    | 17,928    | 42,659                              | 387                                            |
| Germany, West 6/ .....                           | Dec. 3 1/         | 11,465          | 11,553    | 11,815    | 11,948    | 52,172                              | 220                                            |
| Greece 7/ .....                                  | Dec. 31 1/        | 942             | 1,032     | 1,057     | 1,086     | 7,811                               | 121                                            |
| Ireland .....                                    | Jan.              | 3,925           | 4,070     | 4,022     | 4,001     | 2,940                               | 1,335                                          |
| Italy 7/ .....                                   | Dec. 31 1/        | 8,657           | 8,684     | 8,479     | 8,644     | 47,542                              | 182                                            |
| Luxembourg .....                                 | June              | 128             | 131       | ---       | ---       | 304                                 | 421                                            |
| Netherlands .....                                | Dec. 1/           | 2,733           | 2,713     | 2,785     | 2,872     | 10,501                              | 260                                            |
| Norway .....                                     | June 20           | 1,177           | 1,112     | 1,108     | ---       | 3,360                               | 350                                            |
| Portugal .....                                   | Dec. 31 1/        | 5/ 930          | ---       | ---       | ---       | 8,621                               | 108                                            |
| Spain 8/ .....                                   | Apr.              | 3,077           | 2,947     | ---       | ---       | 28,529                              | 108                                            |
| Sweden .....                                     | June              | 2,557           | 2,434     | 2,462     | ---       | 7,168                               | 357                                            |
| Switzerland .....                                | Apr.              | 1,620           | 1,645     | 1,643     | 1,660     | 4,869                               | 333                                            |
| United Kingdom .....                             | Dec. 1/           | 10,133          | 10,755    | 10,711    | 10,831    | 50,622                              | 200                                            |
| Total West Europe .....                          |                   | 73,200          | 75,130    | 75,503    | 76,357    | 291,960                             | 251                                            |
| Bulgaria 7/ .....                                | Dec. 1/           | 1,896           | 1,856     | 1,772     | ---       | 7,398                               | 256                                            |
| Czechoslovakia .....                             | Jan. 1            | 4,249           | 4,107     | 4,134     | ---       | 12,816                              | 332                                            |
| Germany, East .....                              | Dec. 1 1/         | 3,785           | 3,760     | 3,710     | ---       | 18,172                              | 208                                            |
| Hungary .....                                    | Mar.              | 2,108           | 2,170     | 1,973     | ---       | 9,559                               | 221                                            |
| Poland .....                                     | June 30           | 7,488           | 8,353     | ---       | ---       | 26,266                              | 285                                            |
| Rumania 7/ .....                                 | Jan.              | 4,647           | 4,800     | 4,900     | ---       | 16,862                              | 276                                            |
| Yugoslavia 7/ .....                              | Jan. 15           | 5,061           | 5,273     | 5,006     | 4,894     | 17,083                              | 296                                            |
| Total East Europe .....                          |                   | 29,630          | 30,720    | 30,400    | 30,490    | 109,460                             | 271                                            |
| Total Europe .....                               |                   | 102,830         | 105,850   | 105,903   | 106,847   | 401,420                             | 259                                            |
| U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) .....                 | Jan. 1            | 57,020          | 58,800    | 61,400    | 66,700    | 207,000                             | 275                                            |

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58; human population and number of cattle per 1,000 inhabitants, average 1951-55 (Continued)

| Countries                        | Cattle numbers    |                 |           |           | Human population average 1951-55 3/ | Number cattle per 1,000 people average 1951-55 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                  | Month of estimate | Average 1951-55 | 1956      | 1957 2/   |                                     |                                                |
|                                  | 1/                | Thousands       | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands                           | Number                                         |
| <b>AFRICA:</b>                   |                   |                 |           |           |                                     |                                                |
| Algeria 9/.....                  | Nov. 20 1/        | 835             | 912       | 840       | 811                                 | 9,297                                          |
| Egypt 7/.....                    | Jan. 1            | 5/ 2,626        | 2,765     | ---       | ---                                 | 21,945                                         |
| Ethiopia and Eritrea.....        |                   | 5/ 19,500       | 20,000    | ---       | ---                                 | 20,000                                         |
| Sudan.....                       | Dec. 1/           | 4,227           | 6,907     | 6,900     | ---                                 | 8,820                                          |
| Tunisia.....                     | Dec. 31 1/        | 448             | 502       | 491       | 544                                 | 3,629                                          |
| Total North Africa.....          |                   | 32,610          | 36,153    | 36,055    | 36,102                              | 76,630                                         |
| Angola.....                      | Dec. 1/           | 1,271           | 1,180     | 1,214     | 1,220                               | 4,205                                          |
| Belgian Congo & Ruanda Urundi... |                   | 5/ 1,773        | 1,797     | 1,867     | 1,900                               | 16,213                                         |
| Kenya.....                       | Dec. 1/           | 6,758           | 7,265     | ---       | ---                                 | 5,855                                          |
| Madagascar 2/.....               |                   | 6,066           | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 4,630                                          |
| Mozambique.....                  | Dec. 1/           | 782             | 835       | ---       | ---                                 | 5,900                                          |
| Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....      | Dec. 31 1/        | 4,230           | 4,450     | 4,630     | ---                                 | 6,708                                          |
| Tanganyika.....                  | Dec. 1/           | 6,392           | 6,750     | 7,000     | ---                                 | 8,069                                          |
| Uganda.....                      |                   | 2,717           | 3,094     | 3,232     | ---                                 | 5,343                                          |
| Total Central Africa.....        |                   | 52,570          | 57,047    | 57,942    | 58,977                              | 96,220                                         |
| Bechuanaland.....                |                   | 1,083           | 1,173     | 1,236     | ---                                 | 318                                            |
| Union of South Africa.....       | Aug. 31           | 5/ 11,675       | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 13,183                                         |
| Total South Africa.....          |                   | 15,230          | 15,514    | 15,734    | 15,900                              | 14,760                                         |
| Total Africa.....                |                   | 100,410         | 108,714   | 109,731   | 110,979                             | 187,610                                        |
| <b>ASIA:</b>                     |                   |                 |           |           |                                     |                                                |
| Iran 7/.....                     |                   | 4,646           | ---       | 5,200     | ---                                 | 20,713                                         |
| Syria 7/.....                    |                   | 459             | 474       | 505       | ---                                 | 3,548                                          |
| Turkey (Europe and Asia) 7/..... | Nov. 1 1/         | 11,577          | 12,115    | 12,621    | 12,706                              | 22,811                                         |
| Total South-West Asia.....       |                   | 16,250          | 20,226    | 20,785    | 20,877                              | 70,100                                         |
| China, Mainland 7/ 10/.....      |                   | 59,670          | 66,748    | ---       | ---                                 | 582,603                                        |
| Total East Central Asia 11/...   |                   | 61,410          | 68,514    | 69,514    | 70,514                              | 602,310                                        |
| Burma 7/.....                    | Mar.              | 5,666           | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 19,050                                         |
| Cambodia 7/.....                 |                   | 1,374           | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 3,050                                          |
| Ceylon.....                      | May               | 1,918           | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 8,162                                          |
| China, Taiwan 7/.....            | Dec. 1/           | 384             | 412       | ---       | ---                                 | 8,261                                          |
| India 7/.....                    |                   | 201,900         | 203,800   | ---       | ---                                 | 372,004                                        |
| Indonesia 7/.....                |                   | 7,576           | 7,947     | ---       | ---                                 | 79,740                                         |
| Japan.....                       | Feb.              | 2,782           | 3,216     | 3,177     | 3,290                               | 86,720                                         |
| Korea, South.....                | Dec. 1/           | 616             | 867       | 898       | ---                                 | 21,371                                         |
| Laos 7/.....                     |                   | 334             | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 1,260                                          |
| Malaya 7/.....                   |                   | 510             | 529       | ---       | ---                                 | 5,706                                          |
| Pakistan 7/.....                 | 5/ 37,663         | ---             | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 79,911                                         |
| Philippines 7/.....              | Jan.              | 3,398           | 4,267     | ---       | ---                                 | 21,047                                         |
| Thailand 7/.....                 |                   | 11,005          | ---       | ---       | ---                                 | 19,562                                         |
| Total South and East Asia.....   |                   | 277,800         | 284,477   | 285,860   | 287,457                             | 767,300                                        |
| Total Asia 11/.....              |                   | 358,500         | 373,217   | 376,159   | 378,848                             | 1,439,710                                      |
| <b>OCEANIA:</b>                  |                   |                 |           |           |                                     |                                                |
| Australia.....                   | Mar. 31           | 15,361          | 16,457    | 17,257    | 16,500                              | 8,812                                          |
| New Zealand.....                 | Jan. 31           | 5,461           | 5,600     | 5,360     | ---                                 | 2,044                                          |
| Total Oceania.....               |                   | 21,180          | 22,324    | 22,886    | 22,069                              | 13,000                                         |
| TOTAL WORLD 11/.....             |                   | 905,810         | 953,747   | 961,528   | 971,808                             | 2,597,840                                      |

1/ Census or estimate for year shown except that end of year (October-December) is included under following year for comparison and totals. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ FAO estimates; for some countries data are shown for 1953. 4/ One year only. 5/ Average 2 to 4 years. 6/ Excludes West Berlin. 7/ Includes buffaloes. 8/ One year old and older. 9/ Number taxed only. 10/ Official figures; may be overestimates of actual numbers. Communist estimates; includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang & Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 11/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia.

Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of U.S. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service Officers, results of office research and related information. Estimated totals, include allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. Foreign Agricultural Service 1958.

Uruguayan cattle numbers continued to fall as producers switched to more remunerative grain production. This drop, plus labor unrest and financial difficulties in the meat processing industry, has reduced Uruguayan beef exports sharply in recent years. The downward trend in cattle numbers seems likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

### North America

Cattle numbers continued to increase in Mexico. Drought reduced cattle numbers in the Northern States, but this was more than overcome by increases in the Southern States where feed and water were plentiful. Exports of live cattle increased, and high prices for export beef encouraged an increase in inspected slaughter. Numbers are expected to rise in 1958.

Another significant factor of the world cattle situation during 1957 was the reduction in Canadian and U. S. cattle numbers. The slight reduction in Canadian cattle did not include a drop in breeding cattle numbers. This indicates that a relatively rapid recovery in Canadian numbers may be expected. For the United States, numbers have declined for 2 years and beef production is expected to remain relatively low for 2 or more years. During this period, U. S. imports of beef and cattle will be relatively high. The increased movement into the United States may be expected to cause a shift in the pattern of world beef trade. The United States will remain well below the United Kingdom as an importer of meat, however.

### U.S.S.R.

Large increases in Soviet cattle numbers have resulted from the Communist program to increase meat production and consumption. Official Soviet statistics report U.S.S.R. cattle numbers on January 1, 1958, at 66.7 million head. This is still 27.2 million head less than the 94 million on farms in the United States on that date.

### Asia

In Asia, which has nearly 40 percent of the world's cattle, numbers continue to increase but probably at a slower rate than population. India has around 205 million head or 21 percent of the world's total. On the basis of 1951-55 averages, Asia had an average of 249 cattle per 1,000 inhabitants. Many of these animals are work and dairy stock. Cattle production for meat is a minor enterprise in most of these countries and the meat produced is likely to be a by-product of cattle used for work or milk. India had about 543 cattle per 1,000 people, compared with 572 cattle per 1,000 people in the United States and 200 per 1,000 in the United Kingdom.

### Cattle-People Ratio

Several world areas have more cattle than people. Averages for 1951-55 show Bechuanaland in Southern Africa had 3.4 cattle per person, Uruguay 3.1 cattle per person, Paraguay 2.7, New Zealand 2.7, Argentina 2.3 and Australia 1.7. Brazil, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ireland, Kenya and Madagascar had over one head of cattle per person.

Japan has about the fewest cattle per person. The average for all Japan in 1951-55 was only 32 cattle per 1,000 inhabitants. Taiwan had only 46 per 1,000.

The number of cattle per 1,000 persons is not necessarily indicative of the type of agriculture predominating in the area. They do indicate the ability, or potential ability, of the area to meet its domestic demand for beef. Thus, in Uruguay, with 3,077 head of cattle per 1,000 persons, a high per capita beef consumption or a large export surplus of beef may be expected. Actually Uruguay has both. On the other hand, in Japan, where the proportion of cattle to people is low, either a low per capita consumption or large beef imports may be expected. But Japan's beef imports are relatively small. These figures are further distorted by differences in productivity. Brazil, with more cattle than people, is not able to produce enough beef to maintain as high a per capita consumption as the United States where there are about half as many cattle as persons.

In industrial areas, large population may give an erroneous impression of the importance of cattle in agriculture. Although there were only 200 cattle per 1,000 people in the United Kingdom during the period 1951-55, compared to 572 in the United States, there were more cattle per farm worker in the United Kingdom (14.2), than in the United States (10.5). This would indicate that a greater proportion of farm workers are engaged in cattle production in the United Kingdom than in this country.

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1/ Water buffalo are included with cattle in this summary. The world totals for cattle numbers previously published by the Foreign Agricultural Service are not completely comparable because of the adoption of official figures for Communist China for the first time this year. Past estimates of cattle numbers have been based on a restricted territorial definition of Mainland China. The official Communist data is based on a larger number of provinces and includes all areas presently controlled by the Peiping Government.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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